

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

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**PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE****OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held Thursday, February 28, 2008

Resources Building, 1416 9th Street, 15th floor, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Members Participating: Doug Ferrier, Chair
Otto van Emmerik, Vice-Chair
Tom Osipowich
Gerald Jensen
Ray Flynn
Kim Rodrigues

Members Absent: Bill Frost
Michael Stroud

Staff Participating: Eric Huff, Executive Officer

Public/Agencies Participating: Jim Kral, CLFA
Bill Snyder, *CAL FIRE*
George Gentry, Board of Forestry & Fire Protection

Item #1: Approval of Open Session minutes of December 13, 2007 Meeting.

02-08-01 Member Flynn moved to approve the minutes and Member Rodrigues seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chair Van Emmerik abstained due to his absence from the meeting.

Chairman Ferrier moved to Agenda Item #3 as *CAL FIRE* Deputy Director, Bill Snyder was present to speak on the topic.

Item #3 Update on *CAL FIRE* Legislative Proposal to Revise the Professional Foresters Law, presented by Deputy Director, Bill Snyder.

Bill Snyder presented proposed legislation AB 2859 and summarized the bill provisions as follows:

1. The proposed legislation would allow *CAL FIRE* to enter contracts with non-profits and allows use of inmate labor on fuel treatment projects (currently *CAL FIRE* cannot do these things);
2. Within declared zones of infestation, the bill would allow the Department to be more proactive in the thinning and removal of green trees among pockets of dead or infested trees;

3. The proposal would reducing the paper work associated with fuel treatment projects by revising the Forest Practice Act definition of “Timber Operations” to exclude fuel treatment projects where commercial saw logs are not generated;
4. The proposal would expand the capability of fire protection districts to allow them to provide advice to land owners as far as Public Resources Code §4291 clearance requirements. This element will be removed from the proposal as it has been addressed in EO Huff’s correspondence with the Tahoe Commission

Deputy Director Snyder stated that the “urban landscape” referenced in the Professional Foresters Law needs to be defined so that folks know precisely where the Law applies. Member Flynn asked if the definition could be related to parcel size. Snyder responded that it could be related to the size of lot, but that it also would depend on location of lots, the type of treatment that actually needs to be completed, and the potential for environmental impacts. Member Flynn asked how many parcels were involved in the Lake Arrowhead Fire and Snyder responded that he had heard estimates as high as 44,000 lots. Snyder noted that in areas like Arrowhead/Idyllwild, the houses are actually the ladder fuels.

Member Osipowich asked if Placer County had an ordinance that required fuel treatment on parcels of 10 acres or less. Deputy Director Snyder and Chairman Ferrier responded that Kathleen Edwards (Placer County) is working on a new draft ordinance because the first one generated significant public resistance. Chairman Ferrier noted that Placer County did pass some sort of clearance regulation specific to the Tahoe basin, but that it was not a county-wide ordinance. The assembly continued discussion of this and other legislative proposals.

EO Huff offered that a definition of the urban boundary could benefit the Department and land owners, by providing clear guidance as to when licensed professionals need to be involved in projects.

Deputy Director Snyder then brought up climate change and the forest sector’s role in the potential for reduction of carbon emissions. He suggested that the PFEC take a proactive role to ensure RPF involvement in carbon marketing. EO Huff noted that Doug Wickizer had included the licensing office in his very early discussions with the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) and CCAR had accordingly required RPFs to be involved in carbon accounting.

Item # 2 Correspondence with the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission

EO Huff summarized his correspondence to date with the Tahoe Commission and suggested that the Committee make an attempt at better defining the difference between the practice of forestry and that of defensible space. Member Flynn asked if such an effort ought to be Tahoe-specific or applicable statewide. EO Huff responded that it would be a statewide purpose.

Member Rodrigues suggested that prior to convening a full Committee discussion of possible formal statewide policy guidance, the Committee ought to reflect on the lessons learned in our Policy 11 deliberations. There may be unintended consequences associated with formalizing statewide policy in this instance and for now, she is more comfortable with the less formal approach taken to date.

After further discussion, the Committee opted not to direct further formal action on the subject.

Item # 4 Status Report on Draft Policy #12 for the Certified Rangeland Manager Program and Related Topics

EO Huff began with a brief update on Member Stroud's condition. He then noted that Larry Ford is the new Cal-Pac SRM certification panel chair. In his conversations with EO Huff, Mr. Ford has asked about the possibility of increased administrative support by the licensing office in terms of contracting for exam construction, grading and applicant review. This idea will be discussed in further conversations with Mr. Ford and no action is anticipated to date.

The next CRM exam may be held in October, as no one is currently scheduled for the upcoming April exam.

EO Huff reported that work on the draft policy is ongoing, but that a further revised version had not yet been circulated. He also noted that the Board's Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is also looking at the proposed guidance policy.

Item # 5 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Update

EO Huff introduced Board EO, George Gentry who reported that the four Board appointees up for Senate confirmation (Members Bradshaw, Piirto, Nakamura, and Walz) were unanimously endorsed by the Senate Rules Committee.

EO Gentry then noted that for the coming year the BOF has two primary issues they want to work on:

1. Review of the Forest Practice Regulations pertaining to Watersheds with Threatened or Impaired Values (aka: the T & I Rules). This focus on salmonid anadromy will also entail a revision of the Joint Salmonid Policy with the Fish and Game Commission. And, in order to better understand what sort of monitoring programs are in place statewide, the Board's Monitoring Study Group (MSG) will attempt to gather information on all of the relevant monitoring efforts that may be underway.
2. The Board's Fire Plan. Many of the Senate Rules Committee's questions in the confirmation hearings were directed towards the Fire Plan. To that end, the Board will appoint a technical advisory committee to be composed of subject matter experts from outside the Department structure. As an important first step, the Board is working with Gary Dymski of the University of California Sacramento Center to convene a panel of subject matter experts that will help frame the Board's further deliberations on the subject.

Discussion continued on fire protection system issues associated with development in the urban/wildland interface including defensible space inspection, new building standards, and the possibility of State Responsibility Area fees for fire suppression services.

Item # 6 New and Unfinished Business

EO Huff reviewed the one change to the draft “Retired RPF” regulatory proposal, allowing a five-year grace period after retiring to reinstate without having to take an examination. The Board’s legal counsel is still reviewing the proposal.

EO Huff reported that *CAL FIRE*’s Chris Browder has not been able to complete a draft revised THP form because of other more pressing matters, including the status of Northern Spotted Owl regulations.

EO Huff reported that he had not received a response from the Executive Officer of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as to a future meeting for discussion of professional overlap related to bridge crossings.

Chairman Ferrier and Member Rodrigues reported on the University of California’s Forest Stewardship Series publication for use by landowners and other interested parties. The publication is intended to assist California forest landowners in the management of their holdings. Member Rodrigues offered to provide an electronic copy of the 24 part series for distribution to the PFEC and general public.

Adjournment

02-08-02 Vice-Chair Van Emmerik moved to adjourn the Open Session and Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.